

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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R 041530Z JAN 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1514

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSU DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASS KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KU, IZ, IR

SUBJECT: IRAQI-KUWAITI FRONTIER DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KUWAIT 5523

1. BAATH PAPER ATH-THAWRA ON JANUARY 3 DEVOTED LONG EDITORIAL TO ALLEGED KUWAITI PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ. EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTES TIMING OF CAMPAIGN TO PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN KUWAIT. ON KEY ISSUE OF DEMARCATING BORDER, EDITORIAL CLAIMS IRAQ HAS FROM BEGINNING WISHED TO SETTLE MATTER IN MANNER CONTRIBUTING TO BROTHERLY RELATIONS AND HIGHER INTEREST OF ARAB GULF. EDITORIAL SAYS IRAQ HAS PRESENTED TO KUWAIT "PRACTICAL AND FLEXIBLE PROPOSALS" TO RESOLVE ISSUE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

2. EDITORIAL MENTIONS CONFUSION OVER RETURN VISIT OF RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN TO KUWAIT AND SAYS THAT VISIT
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REQUIRES ADVNACE WORK TO ENSURE SUCCESS. PREREQUISITIES

FOR SUCCESS REQUIRE THAT KUWAIT FORMULATE ITS POSITION ON IRAQI PROPOSALS ON DEMARCATION. SINCE KUWAIT HAS NOT YET DONE SO, NO SPECIFIC DATE FOR VISIT HAS BEEN SET.

3. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "WE AWAIT OPINION OF KUWAITI BROTHERS CONCERNING OUR PROPOSALS ON BORDER DEMARCATION. MEANWHILE, ALL PARTIES SHOULD PURSUE A PATH TO CONSOLIDATE HIGHER INTERESTS OF ARAB NATION".

4. COMMENT: FAR FROM CALMING SITUATION, EDITORIAL APPEARS DESIGNED TO PRESSURE KUWAIT TO RESPOND TO IRAQI PROPOSALS (WHICH, AT LAST REPORT, STILL INCLUDED DEMAND FOR SOME FORM OF EXTRATERRITORIAL RIGHTS OVER BUBIYAN AND WARBA ISLANDS) AND ABOVE ALL NOT TO RELY ON ANY NON-ARAB SUPPORT IN DISPUTE WITH "BROTHERLY ARAB". DESPITE IRAQ'S PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR, IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE IT WILL PERMIT MILITARY ESCALATION OF DIFFERENCE AT TIME WHEN OVER 80 PERCENT OF ITS ARMY ENGAGED AGAINST KURDS.
LOWRIE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, BORDER INCIDENTS, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BAGHDA00011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750005-0063
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750178/aaaacqip.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KUWAIT 5523
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI-KUWAITI FRONTIER DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, KU, IZ, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006